**Africa RISING**

**Lemo site**

**Fourth IP meeting report**

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**Hossana**

**Summary**

Innovation platform (IP) is one of pillars of Africa RISING project which used as a means of social learning, updating partners, capturing feedback. The IP meeting is taken places quarterly/biannually in the site. Fourth IP meeting has been taken place on July9/2016. The meeting opened by Hodiya zone agriculture department extension head. On the meeting 26 participants attended representing their institutions/offices/ and kebeles. During the meeting, reports of action researches have been presented by Arica RISING site level team and participants feedback captured. The meeting was held at hall of Hadiya zone agriculture department at Hossana town.

**Objective of the meeting:** Presenting research findings, progress and discussion on scaling the best practices/ scalable practices of the project.

**Participants:** A total of 26 people (two of them were females) participated on the meeting including Hadiya zone agriculture department extension head, Lemo woreda chief administrator, Lemo woreda agriculture office head and extension experts, representative of wachemo university, DA and farmers from both research kebeles.

**AR- research reports presented**

To prepare report presentation, PowerPoint slides and some information were gathered from respective research leaders of AR- ILRI and CG partners. And then summarized and presented by site team.

* ***Potato, faba been and barely PVS and community based seed multiplication researches’*** reports have been presented by Asheber Kifele, research associate for CIP Hawassa.
* ***Feed and fodder*** related presentations have been presented by Fikadu Tessma, assistant site coordinator for Lemo site.
* ***High value crops (Avocado, and vegetable), Irrigation, Chick pea PVS*** related presentations has been presented by Workneh D, Site coordinator for Lemo Site.

**Issues, question, Suggestion, Comments forwarded by participants during discussion**

Following the reports presentation, discussion was held and many valuable suggestion forwarded by the participants.

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| **Questions/ Issues Raised/Suggestions/Comments :** | **Explanation/ Response/** |
| 1. **Question on Oat/vetch**   Why bio mass increased at three cutting of oat/vetch experiment? Need for oat vetch increased, how it can be addressed?   1. **Question on Sweet lupin**   The experiment of Sweet lupine done at FTC only. It might not represent the area. So, can we scale it now? Or what is your future plan? | When the harvest frequency increase the grass tiller increase which in turn increase the biomass harvest  If phase 2 get approval, the lupine trial on adaption and biomass yield will be conducted in two kebeles’ FTCs and farmers’ plots. And then will be scaled out/up based on the findings. |
| 1. **Question on Chickpea PVS**   As report of the Chickpea PVS shows, there is huge yield difference between the two Kebeles, upper gana yield is significantly higher than that of Jewe’s yield.  What is the reason for the difference? Is it technical error? | The data analysis is done very carefully. Not only the data of chickpea PVS but also all research data have been carefully analyzed by senior researchers (scientist).  The yield difference in both PA is significant. It might be due to the land fertility or other factors, or verity. To check it, repeating the PVS may be important. It may be done in phase 2.  But, whatever it is the PVS shows that chick peas is a better option for farmers to use as one of highland crop in the area because   1. It gives a better opportunity to farmers to substitute if meher crop fail during germination due to some reasons. 2. Usually, maize field remain vacant after harvest because maize harvesting end around September during which planting season of other crop pass. But chickpea can be planted since it does not need much moisture once it germinated 3. Nowadays, faba bean, highland legume, is failing due to disease infestation. So, chickpea is on handy to substitute to meet farmers need for highland legume production |
| 1. **Suggestion/ Questions on avocado**   ***Farmers suggestion:***   1. As our observation avocado is well preforming in our field. We are happy to plant additional seedlings. And also none targeted farmers in our neighbors/ in our village/, eagerly seeking how to get the seedlings. So, can we get any support if we want to buy seedlings by our own money? 2. If training on avocado grafting is given us, we ourselves can be source of grafted seedlings to ourselves and to others. Now, we have selected fruiting/mother tree so we don’t have problem of scion except skill gap on grafting. Can the project train us or DAs? 3. To ensure sustainable access to grafted seedlings, establishing a nursery like butajire is crucial. So, what do you plan? | To meet immediate need, if farmers are ready to by the seedlings by their own money, butajira nursery will be communicated by woreda office of agriculture, the office will take facilitating the purchase.  Regarding, farmers and DAs training on the grafting will be done in phase 2 in collaboration with wachemo university. Farmers and DAs also advised to share knowledge and skill among each other within the PA. The DAs also advised to organize session to farmers to learn/share skill from some farmers who were trained by other NGO that were operational in the PA before Africa RISING  Regarding establishing nursery, in phase 2, this issues will get emphases through collaborating with local partners, wachemo university and woreda office of agriculture. Wachemo university handed over sites in different location. In phase 2, the project can collaborate with the university to address the farmers need like it did in Bale Sinana |
| 1. **Irrigation Technology**   ***Rope and washer pump***   1. Farmers have been experiencing frequent breakage of rope and washer pump. Its quality seems poor. Which contributes farmers not to adopt the technology. So, during technology introduction quality issues should be considered. 2. In the site, government is providing water lifting technology (rope and washer pump) freely but you are pushing farmers to pay for the technology. These are conflicting approaches. So, it should align with government approach. Unless farmers might not willing to loan scheme which may result in conflict. *Commented by woreda expert*   ***Solar pump:***   1. Fixing materials the panes with the lower part is not strong enough to resist wind pressure. We concerned about it because the panel might be taken away by wind. So, is it passable to improve or to modify that part? 2. During cloudy day, it is difficult to discharge water because the solar pump doesn’t accumulate energy during sunny hours. It was fantastic technology if it would accumulate energy during sunny hours to use during cloudy hours. | The pump supplier gave one year warranty to maintain if the pumps broken /damaged due to its quality problem. So farmers can use this as an opportunity to maintain their pump. They have already connected with supplier. They know him. This is one advantages of selecting local supplier.  The loan issue will be discussed with the concerned body to search if there is any options but the loan collection responsibility have been given to microfinance. It is responsible to collect the loan. The issue needs further discussion.  Technical team from IWMI will give explanation on the solar pump issues. |
| 1. **Potato**   The farmers appreciated the potato and potato storage technology intervention. But they raised their concern saying  Newly coming potato varieties’ productivity decline after certain production. For example Jelene was strong when we received it but now its productivity is declined, it couldn’t resist disease.  Why not it keep its potential? What is solution? How can we get new variety when the variety we have lose its potential? | The yield decaling issue briefly explained by CIP and university representatives.  The farmers advised to organize themselves in cooperative to communicate with concerned body in order to get new varieties when the productivity the variety decline. |
| 1. **Vegetable**s   We have interest to diversify our farm output through widely engaging in vegetables production. However, our one of our bottlenecks is vegetable seed quality and price escalation. Getting quality (productive) vegetable seed is difficult. Some seeds are not reliable because sometimes its germination become poor. Sometimes after germination its produce become very small, or cracked during head formation (cabbage), and tuber formation (carrot). On other side, the price is becoming unaffordable. So, how do you support us? | Expert from woreda office of agriculture briefed that woreda office of agriculture is collecting need from farmers and bringing seed from suppliers via regional/zone agriculture departments.  The farmers have been advised to use this seed supply scheme instead of buying from unknown source.  From the project side, there is no any promise to give vegetable seed. |

**The meeting closing remark:**

Ato Eyeule, Head of the woreda office of agriculture, put his remark how to scale the best and promising practices done by the research project. He strongly advised his office experts and DAs to give emphases to scale potato, technologies, avocado, chickpea and other fodder technologies. On his remark he put to give special attention for chickpeas mentioning the farmers challenge on highland legume production. He also appreciated the collaborative approach to address the farmers need without effort duplication.